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## Rumo(u)rs from Paddington

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rificing the recognition and audience that a reputable journal can provide. **PLoS** will begin by publishing two journals—**PLoS Biology** and **PLoS Medicine**—that will retain all of the important features of scientific journals, including rigorous peer-review and high editorial standards, but will use a new business model in which the costs of these services are recovered by modest fees on each published paper. This new model will allow **PLoS** to make all published works immediately available online, with no charges for access or restrictions on subsequent redistribution or use. The **Howard Hughes Medical Institute** in the US has strongly endorsed this concept by offering to cover the costs of open access publication by means of a budget supplement to each of its investigators. Several universities have recognized the tremendous value of open access publishing to the scientific and academic communities (as well as long term financial savings of this model) and have taken similar steps by providing funds from library budgets to support open access publishing. **PLoS** has also taken steps to ensure that authors who do not have access to grant funds or institutional support that allow them to pay publication fees will still be able to publish their work in the **PLoS** journals. **PLoS** has begun putting together a professional editorial staff, and assembling a diverse, international editorial advisory board of outstanding scientists who share these goals. **PLoS** hopes to begin receiving submissions by summer 2003, and to begin publishing in the second half of 2003. More information about this new initiative is available at: <http://www.publiclibraryofscience.org>.

This issue is guest-edited by the scholarly **Mark Herring** (Winthrop University). His **CyberAge/Special Report #3** is not in this issue, but will follow in the next issue. Stay tuned!

More from **Liblicense**. On December 16, 2002, **Creative Commons** released version 1.0 of its **Licensing Project** and the first release of content under its **Founders' Copyright**. These are the first two projects in a series that **Creative Commons** will launch, all designed to help expand the amount of intellectual work, whether owned or free, available for creative re-use. The **Licensing Project** will build licenses that will help copyright holders tell others that their works are free for copying and other uses—but only on certain conditions. You're probably familiar with the phrase "All rights reserved" and the little © that goes along with it. **Creative Commons** wants to help copyright holders send a different message: "Some rights reserved" and the "CC Creative Commons" logo. If an author prefers to dedicate his/her work to the public domain, where nothing is owned and

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by **Daryl Rayner** (Marketing Director, xrefer; Phone: +44 (0) 20 7479 9204; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7479 9212) <daryl@xrefer.com>  
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As I write this most of you are probably "en famille" enjoying roast turkey and pumpkin pie. Sadly in Paddington there is no such "thanksgiving" and we are all at our desks looking forward to a weekend most likely to be filled with Christmas preparations.

Unfortunately this year I didn't make it personally to the **Charleston Conference**, but I hope that many of you got the chance to meet **Carole Myles** <carole.myles@xrefer.com> and **Adam Hodgkin** <adam.hodgkin@xrefer.com> both "xreferers" and involved in various presentations and discussions. I heard from them that the meeting was a great success. Next year it will be my turn to visit and escape from London's grey autumn skies.

Over the past couple of months we have had a steady stream of visitors to our offices in Paddington Station and it is always good to see you passing through. It was wonderful to welcome **Rick Lugg** and **Ruth Fischer** <rick@r2consulting.org> and their children in early November en route to **Madame Tussauds** <http://www.madame-tussauds.com/> (waxworks of famous people). The whole family looked in extraordinarily good shape considering they had just got off a transatlantic flight. I must apologise to them for the weather though. I think it rained for the whole of their two week trip. **Lorraine Estelle** the new Collections Team Manager at the **JISC** <lorraine.estelle@kcl.ac.uk> visited and told us all about her ambitious plans back at the **JISC** offices in **Kings College**, London. We wish you luck, **Lorraine**. **Steve O'Connor** CEO of **CAVAL Collaboration Solutions** <steveo@caval.edu.au> also managed a quick trip to the xrefer offices having just arrived from Australia. We have been seeing publishers and reference editors from **Penguin**, **Cassell**, **Harcourt**, **Longman**, **Cambridge Scientific Abstracts**, **Blackwell** and **Wiley**. The **Bloomsbury** editor wanted to know why our office was on Platform One of Paddington Station and not on Platform 9 in Kings Cross.

But there's lots happening outside of Platform One too! I can report that **The Bookseller** have now started their own daily book blog at <http://www.thebookseller.com/news/news.html>. The perfect way to keep abreast of the why's and wherefores of the British book scene.

The complete and fully updated UK Marc manual is now freely available online on **The British Library** Website: <http://www.bl.uk/services/bibliographic/marc/marcman.html>. **The British Library** have also launched their **Magic Pencil: Children's Book Illustration of Today Exhibition** <http://portico.bl.uk/whatson/exhibitions/magicpencil/home.html>. It runs until March 31st 2003. If you can't make

the exhibition I recommend that you browse their fabulous collection of e-postcards <http://portico.bl.uk/ecards/indexmagicpencil.html>.

The **Royal Botanical Gardens** at Kew has launched its Internet based "shop window" for plant information, giving botanists, conservationists and researchers worldwide access to the information held in its databases <http://www.rbghkew.org.uk/epic/>.

Love letters from **Henry VIII** to **Anne Boleyn** and manuscripts of **Emperor Justinian** are just some of the hundreds of thousands of historical manuscripts being added to the Website of the **Vatican Apostolic Library** <http://www.vatican.va>. The library was apparently founded by **Pope Nicholas V** (1447-1455) and has 1.6 million volumes!!

The big event in London in December is the **Online Information Show** <http://online-information.co.uk>. It is always a meeting of the great and good in the digital information world, and the line-up for this year looks as though it is to be no exception. It is good to see that **Peter Scott** of the **University of Saskatchewan Library** <scott@lights.com> will be moderating the first session on content strategy, management and creation. I notice, also, that **Sheila Webber** at the Department of Information Studies, **University of Sheffield** <s.webber@sheffield.ac.uk> will be providing her usual enlightening insights during the session on educating end users. **Charles Oppenheim**, <c.oppenheim@lboro.ac.uk> Professor of Information Science at **Loughborough University** will be providing half of the "double keynote" (in partnership with **Dr. Donald Marchand** from the **International Institute for Management Development**) on the subject of "Managing Information as an Asset." And no Online meeting would be complete without **Gary Price**, <gprice@gwu.edu>, Library Research and Internet Consulting and **Greg Notess**, <greg@notess.com> Associate Professor **Montana State University, Bozeman** giving us the benefit of their up-to-date Web searching expertise.

I can report that **Karen Stanfield** is the new Director of the newly formed Information Services department at the **University of Nottingham**. **Stephen Pinker** who was formerly Academic Services Librarian is now the Assistant Director of Information Services at the **University of Nottingham**. **Alison McNab** has been appointed to the post of Academic Services Section Head in the research and Learning Resources Divisions of **IS**. **Alison** was previously Collections Manager for Journals and Discovery tools at **JISC**. We wish them all luck.

By the time you read this it will be 2003, so all that is left for me to do, is wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Inspiring New Year. 